

FALLEN FINEST

DETECTIVE LUIS R. LOPEZ Manhattan South Narcotics

Detective Luis R. Lopez was shot and killed during an undercover marijuana buy-bust operation on Wednesday, March 10, 1993.

An investigation was underway as a result of complaints which stated that guns and drugs were being sold at a below-street-level store on East First Street, in the East Village section of Manhattan.

A suspect, at the location, offered to sell Detective Lopez, who was disguised as a drug dealer, several pounds of marijuana. Detective Lopez left the location, saying he was going to get the money from his car.

Shortly before 4:00 pm, when Detective Lopez and at least three other officers returned to the location to arrest the suspect, a shootout ensued and Detective Lopez was fatally shot in the chest.

He was removed to Bellevue Hospital but expired approximately one hour later.

Three suspects were arrested in connection with the murder. The gunman was convicted of first degree murder, attempted murder, and selling marijuana. He was sentenced to 55 years to life. He will be eligible for parole in 2047.

Detective Louis R. Lopez had served with the New York City Police Department for seven years and was 35 years old. He was survived by his wife, Nellie; his son, Luis Jr., his step-daughter, Ernestina; his parents, Reynaldo and Lydia; and his siblings, Carlos and Maura.

